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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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www.journalregister.turley.com**COMMUNITY**

New display will honor local Purple Heart recipients

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — This year, Memorial Day will be more colorful and perhaps radiate more gravitas.

Light Up Palmer and Veteran's Agent Troy Brin have come together to put together a new Purple Heart Recognition Program.

Beginning Memorial Day, May 31, Light Up Palmer plans to display banners along Main Street in the Depot Village area through Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. Chairperson of Light Up Palmer, Christine Smith, said the committee reached out to her with the idea and that it's a team effort with members such as Donna Mead, who designed the Purple Heart recognition banner deserving a share of the credit.

"We truly act as a team with each person bringing a different talent to the table," Smith said.

"My talent happens to be reaching out to people with our ideas and helping fund them. Additionally, I would like to mention the employees and patrons of Tailgate Tavern, since they are the individuals who helped put together an idea and funded a significant portion of this program on our behalf."

Brin, who will contact and speak with local Purple Heart recipients and ask if they would like to be recognized, said he appreciates the organizers' drive and creativity.

"The passion of Light Up Palmer's team and Christine Smith



Courtesy Photo

The town of Palmer plans to recognize local veterans who received the Purple Heart, awarded to men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who were wounded or killed in combat. The banner shown here was created by Donna Mead.

to honor our veterans is a breath of fresh air and inspirational," Brin said.

PURPLE HEART | page 5

A Hoppin' Good Day



Photos special by Brett Miller

THREE RIVERS — The first Easter-ific Egg Hunt of Palmer was a huge success Saturday in Pulaski Park. See more photos on page 8.

PERSEVERANCE

With barely enough for a team, Pathfinder shows Pioneer spirit

By Jonah Snowden
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PALMER — Sports is supposed to build character and the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School football team showed it has plenty of it.

The Pioneers demonstrated their willingness to persevere through any obstacles, regardless of the outcome, during a recent game against Northampton High School's Blue Devils. The team went into the March 28 game with only 13 eligible players and despite the disadvantage, came to play. The game was called at half-time with Pathfinder on the long end of a 35-0 score. Coach Joseph Baldyga said despite the effort, he had to consider the team's health and safety and decided it was best to call it a day and regroup for the next game.

Baldyga, who also is Pathfinder Director of Athletics, said the reason for the short-handed roster last week was a combination of some players losing academic eligibility because of low grades, several who left the team to take after-school jobs, and a few students being forced into quarantine because of COVID-19.

Baldyga said he is still proud of his



Quarterback and team captain Jordan Talbot escapes a tackle during the shortened game against Northampton. In the background is head coach Joseph Baldyga.

players, especially the core group that barely made up enough to actually take the field.

"They've been super committed and pretty much 15 of them have only missed maybe one or two practices," Baldyga said.

"They've been really great at showing up and putting in the work. We're really coaching them up hard and we're trying to get better as a program and I got to give the kids a ton of credit for their commitment."

Even after having to concede a game with a half to play, Baldyga said he is optimistic for the team's future.

"I think this particular group are just really passionate about the sport of football," Baldyga said.

"They want to get learn and get better and have given such tremendous effort and have great attitudes. My coaching staff are super excited every day for practice. We had some good routines we go through, trying to improve our skills and I think the kids enjoy being back to normal. When you are out on the field, even though we are wearing a mask, it's their two hours of the day they're doing something they love."

Pioneer players, such as team captain

GAME | page 11



Turley Publications file photos by David Henry
Senior Richard Martin (34), a fullback and linebacker and also a team captain, and Austin Lagomiere (21) both try to get their hands on the ball during the game against the Blue Devils. The Pioneers played despite having only 13 eligible players.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Palmer native sworn-in as Hampden police chief

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

HAMPDEN — Nearly 100 people stood on the front lawn of the Hampden Police Department last Wednesday to watch the swearing-in ceremony for Scott Trombly, the department's new chief of police.

Trombly, a Warren resident who's worked with the Hampden department for nearly 27 years, was appointed unanimously by the town's board of selectmen last month. Trombly, formerly a de-



Courtesy photo

tive with the department, fills the vacancy left by Jeff Farnsworth, who left for a position with the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security earlier this

TROMBLY | page 5

ENVIRONMENT

Grab your gloves and come help save the river next week

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turely.com

THREE RIVERS — The 50th anniversary of Earth Day may have been overshadowed by the global pandemic, but that doesn't mean its legacy won't continue.

In this area, the Palmer Conservation Commission is looking forward to a robust turnout of volunteers for its first river cleanup since 2019. The 2020 event was canceled as the COVID-19 pandemic, then in its early months, led to municipal lockdowns and quarantines as officials hoped to stop the spread.

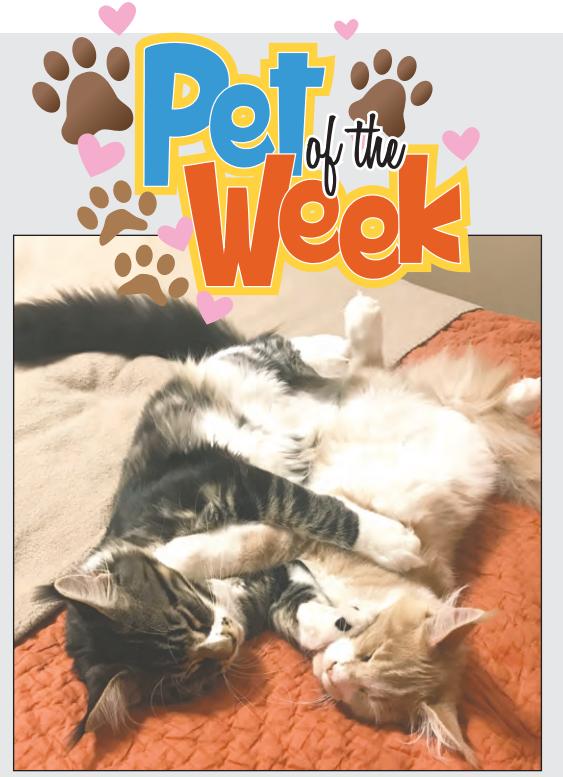
This year's event will be held Saturday, April 17 — less than a week before the 51st Earth Day,



Courtesy photo
A group of volunteers who participated in the Palmer Conservation Commission's 2018 river clean-up. Want to join your neighbors as part of a national river cleanup project on April 17? Contact Sarah Fortune at 413-626-7084 or sfortune@townofpalmer.com.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 8 0 9



HOPS AND BARLEY

These Maine Coon kittens are owned by Bill and Shannon Swift of Monson. "They are very good boys," Shannon says. "Obviously they are best friends. When they are not sleeping, their favorite toy is a small piece of paper crumpled into a ball."

We feature your pets here and on Facebook every week. Is your friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Brimfield Police on the lookout for distracted drivers

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — The Brimfield Police Department is using a Municipal Road Safety Grant, awarded through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, to purchase equipment and enforce the Mass. cell phone law enacted just over a year ago.

The town's police officers in marked and unmarked vehicles or standing at intersections will be out monitoring drivers to ensure they keep their cell phones down. The penalty for violating the hands-free law is a \$100 fine for the first offense, a \$250 fine for the second offense, and a \$500 for the third and subsequent offenses.

Brimfield Police Lt. William Beaudry said this campaign began on April 2 and will go through April 18 to help convince residents to not text while driving or do any other type of distracted driving. Beaudry said drivers can make hands-free calls or texts to ensure their safety as well as the safety of fellow drivers and pedestrians.

"We're not saying that you have to lose communication with the world," Beaudry said.

"It's more important to be cautious of the road and waiting those two minutes to stop, before making those calls."

For more information on the department's campaign, visit the Brimfield Police Department's Facebook page.

Summerfest events canceled due to pandemic

MONSON — The annual Monson Summerfest will not stage its June Fireworks or Independence Day activities, the committee said this week.

The Monson Summerfest Committee voted to suspend the June fireworks and Fourth of July activities for this year after consulting local health agencies. The committee decided it is not in the best interest of the town to hold its annual celebration while cases of COVID-19 remain high in the area — Monson has been in the "Red" or high-risk category for several weeks — and some state-mandated restrictions remain in place.

"The committee has always prided itself in providing our community and visitors with a safe, friendly, and family oriented day in keeping with the traditional Fourth of July celebration," Committee Chairman Steve Slozak said.

"The current health concerns posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for the well-being of all people has posed a very real threat to that goal."

Not that it was an easy decision to make, he said.

"It was a disappointing decision, but one that the committee felt necessary," Slozak said.

"We are not willing to put any of our citizens or visitors in harm's way."

The committee will continue to look ahead and hopes to renew the traditional celebration next year, Slozak said.

Celebrate the Class of 2021

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Stone and Sparrow
The Gin Mill
Trio Salon

Please help us to celebrate these students, they are missing out on so much due to COVID-19.

LET US MAKE THEIR FINAL TIME AT PHS MEMORABLE

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE EMAIL
phsclassof2021@gmail.com

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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.



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**The Journal Register
Car Parade**

Drive-by 100th Celebration

SOPHIE CHUDY

Happy Birthday Mom on your 100th birthday! We remember all the things you did: the Girl Scouts, the Sock Hops at the Am-vets, Exercise coaching in Three Rivers, and helping the Women's auxiliary and Women's Symphony. But, most of all we remember your legendary X-mas buffets. We all learned how to cook all the wonderful food and desserts as well as decorating for the seasons. Thank you Mom for teaching us by doing.

Love, your Family.

We want to help you celebrate!!

Please send us your Birthday, Anniversary and Wedding announcements. Send us a short announcement no more than 40 words and a photo if possible.

We will publish them in our Car Parade Section!
mharrison@turley.com

Town Administrator candidates interviewed in public next week

MONSON — Final candidates for the open town manager position will be interviewed by the Monson Select Board during its next meeting.

The BOS will be conducting interviews at meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13.

The interviews will be streamed live. A link is available on the town's website.

Jennifer Wolowicz became interim town administrator in Monson after now-former administrator Evan Brassard resigned to take the same position with the town of Grafton. Wolowicz said she was applying for the permanent spot.

Neither a list of candidates nor the meeting agenda was available at press time. The town expected to post the meeting agenda by Friday.

A consultant, Community Paradigm Associates, was contracted to handle the search for candidates and stopped taking resumes March 15.

To view the agenda when it's posted and to get the link for the meeting's live stream, go to monson-ma.gov.



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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Monson election filing ends April 15

Want to run for office?

The annual Monson town election will be held 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, at Memorial Hall. Candidates can run for the following offices:

Housing Authority, one seat, five-year term
Board of Selectmen, one seat, three-year term
School Committee, two seats, three-year term
School Committee, one seat (to fill the year remaining of a vacated term)

Highway Surveyor, one seat, three-year term
Board of Assessors, one seat, three-year term
Water and Sewer Commissioner, three-year term
Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term
Parks and Recreation Commissioner, three-year term

To obtain nomination papers, call 413-267-4115 or email townclerk@monson-ma.gov. The deadline to file nomination papers is Thursday, April 15.

Filing for town elected offices underway

Anyone interested in running for any of the Palmer offices that will be decided by the June 8 election can begin filing their nomination papers.

One seat each will be available for the following positions:

Councilor at Large/District 2; Councilor/District 3 Councilor/Planning Board and School Committee. Each term is three years.

Candidates must be registered to vote in Palmer by May 19 to be eligible. There is no filing fee and papers must be returned by April 15.

To obtain the nomination papers and for more information, call the Town Clerk at 283-2608.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays.

We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Public Auction

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.

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• Unit 2: ±1,500 S/F of Area • Carpeted Floors • (2) Restrooms •

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BASEMENT: ±5,300 S/F • Carpeted Floors (2) Restrooms •

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Viewpoints

Winning isn't everything - or so easily quantified

It's difficult to imagine what the odds must be against a high school football team with just 13 players beating any team with a full roster, even with other variables factored in. Probably one in some number with a lot of zeros.

With that improbable chance looming, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School played its first game of an abbreviated and bizarre season against Northampton last week. With just enough players to get the requisite number on the field and two to spare, those odds became even longer after the Pioneers were down 35-0 at halftime. Demonstrating that discretion is the better part of valor, coach Joseph Baldyga wisely conceded the rest of the game. Having essentially the whole team playing every snap against an opponent that can rotate in fresh players and the lopsided score is a recipe for injury and as game as his team is, Baldyga said he always considers their health and safety first and foremost.

Only the players and their coaches can truly know what it felt like to try to get ready for that game. You can't possibly practice properly with so few players. So few that they couldn't even hold seven-on-seven drills with the players who would huddle up when the whistle blows.

Maybe in a normal year Pathfinder would have forfeited. But after a frustrating and unpredictable year in which a football season in any form was in doubt, this team – just like their peers across the region and around the state – simply wanted a chance to compete. Practice is the cost of getting to play the game and all competitive athletes just want the opportunity to try.

Life can't be measured by a number, but in sports the bottom line is the bottom line. Score more than your opponent and you win. Where sports and life intersect, success can't always be so easily quantified.

One thing is certain. The willingness of Baldyga, his staff and their players to put it on the line when they had no realistic chance of winning makes them champions in our eyes.

Monson club offers scholarship

The Monson Garden Club \$500 scholarship is open to a high school senior who resides in Monson and plans to continue school at a two or four-year college in any branch of the life, natural, or environmental sciences.

Applications may be obtained through the school guidance office and are due by April 27.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

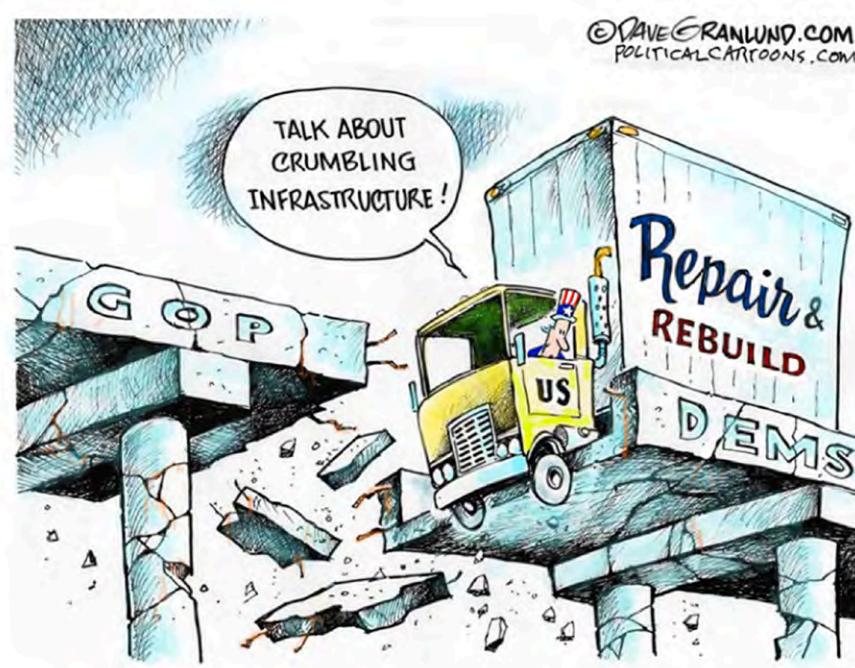
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The best way to root stem cuttings

Neil, who reads the column in the Wilbraham Times, asked the Garden Lady to write about taking stem cuttings. He enjoyed my commentary on houseplants from a few weeks back and seemed interested in trying his hand at propagating some of his own plants by this method.

Here you go, Neil! I wish you loads of success.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success. First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting. A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season. Spring is a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well. Just this past week I took cuttings of both scented geraniums and rosemary.

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material. Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node. Terminal cuttings, (those from the growth tip) three to four inches long are desirable. It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant. These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go. Play it safe with stout cuttings.

There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem. Sand, perlite, and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended.

ed as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.

Cut only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting. If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur, a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container. I have found that "less is more" when using these products. When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first; do not push in with the stem! After the cutting is inserted, firm the medium around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location. The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting. Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so, roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows; likewise, using newly-rooted cuttings together in a mixed planter works well, together in a mixed planter works well, together in a mixed planter works well,

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Robert McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

HISTORY MATTERS

Conservation Corps, Space age and animal cruelty

History Matters is a bi-weekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

April 1 to April 15
By John Grimaldi and
David Bruce Smith

Intrinsically, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a conservationist, who once said, "the forests are the lungs of our land [which] purify our air and give fresh strength to our people."

On April 5, 1933, a year after he was elected President, FDR formed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); he believed it would put thousands of citizens back to work during "the Great Depression" and ensure the health of America's woodlands.

Those who enlisted in "Roosevelt's Tree Army" got \$30 per month, approximately \$600 in 2021 currency, and access to vocational education to facilitate their re-entry into the job market. Enrollment was intended to be only six months, but many of the recruits stayed longer.

According to History.com,

"CCC employees fought forest fires, planted trees, cleared and maintained access roads, re-seeded grazing lands and implemented soil-erosion controls. They built wildlife refuges, fish-rearing facilities, water storage basins and animal shelters. To encourage citizens to get out and enjoy America's natural resources, FDR authorized the CCC to build bridges and campground facilities. From 1933 to 1942, the CCC employed over 3 million men."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Hitch" by Jeanette Ingold.

Space age began April 9, 1959, when seven test pilots with "The Right Stuff" were formally presented to the nation as its inaugural astronauts. The "Mercury Project", as they were known, was composed of Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Cooper Jr., John H. Glenn Jr., Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Walter Schirra Jr., Alan Shepard Jr. and Donald Slayton.

Their goal was to launch a sequence of successfully manned missions to space. Two years earlier, the Soviet Union had astonished the world, when it put the first artificial satellite, Sputnik, into orbit, but America, resolved to eclipse them, was stunned a second time, when their cosmonaut,

Yuri Gagarin, piloted the planet's first manned space flight in April 1961, less than a month before Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard, went up in his spacecraft, the Freedom 7.

By then, the hustle for celestial superiority was ramped up with a zing, but the U.S. continued to lag—until 1969, when NASA's Apollo astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins took "one giant leap for mankind"—and landed on the moon.

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Project Mercury: America in Space Series" by Eugene Reichl.

Preventing animal cruelty

Henry Bergh was a wealthy man who learned a great lesson when he was given a diplomatic post at the U.S. Embassy in Russia by President Abraham Lincoln. As one account put it, "While in St. Petersburg he is reputed to have seen a droshky or Russian peasant beating his fallen cart horse. Bergh dismounted from his own carriage and intervened, saving the horse from a further beating that day.

Upon his return to America in 1865, he stopped in England and met with the president of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Once back in New York, Bergh

quickly took action to affect the formation of a similar society in the United States."

On April 10, 1866, he founded American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; it became a model for the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

His passion and his accounts of the cruelties suffered by animals enabled him to convince the New York State Legislature to give him a charter to organize the first ASPCA, and to enact the first anti-cruelty law in the United States.

The ASPCA also got the power to investigate complaints of animal cruelty, and to make arrests. History.com notes that "As the pioneer and innovator of the humane movement, the ASPCA quickly became the model for more than 25 other humane organizations in the United States and Canada."

By the time Bergh died in 1888, 37 of the 38 states in the Union [at that time] had passed anti-cruelty laws."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "A Traitor to His Species: Henry Bergh and the Birth of the Animal Rights Movement," 1st Edition, by Ernest Freeberg,

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Will my widow's benefit replace my own benefits?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: My husband is 76, retired for four years, and receiving Social Security. I am only 59 and still working. We are both in good health and I'd like to think we still have many years to enjoy retirement. My question: Is it true that if I start Social Security at 62, I can switch to my husband's Social Security benefits when he passes? If this is true (and his amount is slightly higher than my FRA amount), wouldn't it make sense for me to begin collecting at 62? Signed: Younger Spouse

Dear Younger Spouse: Yes, it is true that if you start your reduced personal Social Security benefit at age 62, and your husband (collecting a benefit higher than your own) predeceases you, you can switch to his higher benefit amount. But there are some other factors which come into play when dealing with survivor benefits, especially with an age difference:

• You must be at least 60 years old to claim your survivor benefit (or 50 if you are disabled).

• Your survivor benefit will be reduced if you haven't yet reached your own full retirement age (FRA) when you claim it. The reduction is 4.75% for each full year earlier than your FRA that you claim the survivor benefit.

• You do not need to take your survivor benefit immediately upon your husband's death. Your survivor benefit as your husband's widow reaches maximum at your FRA, and you can choose to delay claiming your widow's benefit until you reach your FRA (to get the maximum amount).

• If you claim any Social Security benefit before your FRA (your own or your survivor benefit), and you are working, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before SS takes back some of your benefits.

Considering the above, if your eventual benefit as your husband's widow will be the highest benefit you will be entitled to, then claiming your personal Social Security benefit at age 62 may be a prudent strategy. It allows you to collect your own benefit earlier (albeit reduced) until your higher survivor benefit kicks in to replace the smaller amount.

However, your plans for working prior to your full retirement age are key to deciding if you should claim benefits earlier. If you exceed the earnings limit (\$18,960 for 2021), Social Security will take away some of your benefits, which could mean you go without benefits until they recover what you owe. Indeed, if your earnings are high enough, you may find that you would get no Social Security benefits because the amount you owe for exceeding the earnings limit would completely offset your Social Security benefit.

So, as you can see, if you are working with a high income, the earnings limit might imply that waiting until your FRA to claim any Social Security benefit is the smartest move. But if you don't work after you claim Social Security, then taking your own benefit early and later switching to your higher widow's benefit at or after your FRA would be a sound choice.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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24 Water St.,
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or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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Stacey Perlmuter, director of development for Springfield Shriners Hospital for Children, visited Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank president and CEO at the bank's new East Longmeadow branch location to accept Monson Savings Bank's \$2,000 donation.

Monson Savings Bank donates \$2,000 to Shriners Hospital for Children

MONSON — Monson Savings Bank is committed to helping all members of the local communities, but this is especially true when it comes to supporting youth community members who need extra care. That's why Monson Savings Bank President and CEO Dan Moriarty recently presented a \$2,000 donation to Stacey Perlmuter, director of development for Springfield Shriners Hospital for Children, a local hospital providing specialty care exclusively for children.

The donation was made as a part of the 2021 Monson Savings Bank Community Giving Initiative, where the public could submit their votes to support their favorite local charitable organization.

Bank is proud to support the excellent care provided every day."

Springfield Shriners Hospital for Children is unique in its ability to provide exceptional, specialized pediatric orthopedic, urology and cleft lip and palate care, using the latest innovations in diagnosis and treatment, with expanded services including fracture care and sports health and medicine. Under one roof, they provide a full range of inpatient and outpatient services, allowing a child's care to take place in one location, and regardless of their ability to pay, removes a great deal of the stress that can accompany an illness or injury of a child. We are very lucky to have this hospital in our area and Monson Savings

with services needed. Learn more or donate at: <https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/shc>

"We are incredibly grateful to Monson Savings Bank for their continued support of the Springfield Shriners Hospital for Children," said Stacey Perlmuter, Director of Development. "Because of Monson Savings Bank's loyal generosity over the years, our patients are receiving the best quality care while transforming their lives. This community is so fortunate to have a local bank that is committed to supporting our communities and our hospital."

Monson Savings Bank has a branch in Ware.



Courtesy photos
Scott Trombly with his wife, Barbara, his mother, Joy, his son, Brian, and daughter, Lauren, who were by his side during the ceremony.

TROMBLY | from page 1

year.

Hampden Board of Selectmen Chair Donald Davenport called Trombly "a true reflection of law enforcement" and said he has the education, experience and leadership skills for the job.

Trombly thanked town officials and community members for "the faith you've shown in me." He said he's proud to work with the Hampden department, where "training and commitment to service are second to none."

He also thanked his wife, Barbara, his mother, Joy, his son, Brian, and daughter, Lauren, who were standing by his side during the ceremony. "Officers can't truly be successful without the support of their family," he said in an emotional speech.

Trombly was raised in Palmer and got his first job in law enforcement with the Palmer Police Department as an auxiliary officer. He was one of three internal candidates considered by Hampden's selectmen for the role of police chief after Farnsworth announced his departure.

Hampden's Interim Police Chief Richard Marchese said Trombly is "a great man for the job."

Following several remarks from Davenport, Marchese and other local officials, Trombly was officially sworn in by Hampden Town Clerk Eva Wiseman. Trombly's son, Brian, pinned the new Chief's badge onto Trombly's uniform.

"I was very proud," Trombly's mother, Joy, said of watching her son being sworn in. "I teared up."

After the ceremony ended, Trombly told the Wilbraham-Hampden Times being sworn in to the new role was "exciting" and overwhelming.

"What an accomplishment," Trombly said of his career and promotion as head of the department.

This wasn't the first time selectmen appointed Trombly to the role of police chief. Selectman John Flynn said Trombly was appointed to the position 15 years ago, but Trombly reconsidered the appointment shortly after and Farnsworth was subsequently selected.

"Nothing in the past 15 years has changed my mind that he should be our chief," Flynn said. "I voted for him for chief twice."

Flynn and Davenport said they'd received "quite a bit of feedback" about Trombly, both in the community and within the department, commanding him for his attitude and work ethic.

"Both people that serve under him and people he's worked for have said this is the right guy for the position," Flynn said. "I'd gotten calls from a couple of previous chiefs who said 'this is the guy you need to pick.' They felt he had what it took to do the job, and that's important."

Davenport said several individuals called and pointed out Trombly is "community-minded" and has also been involved with the town's senior center.

"It was important for our board to move quickly because we have a lot of major things happening," Flynn said of the appointment. "Obviously, the dispatch change affects the police department, and it was important for our board to take the reins quickly and move on."

Selectman Mary Ellen Glover also attended the ceremony last week.

PURPLE HEART | from page 1

"Light Up Palmer has found a creative and innovative way to honor these brave men and women for their service and sacrifice to this great nation and our way of life. It is a pleasure to collaborate and work with such passionate people. I would like to thank Light Up Palmer, Tailgate Tavern, Ms. Chris Smith and Ms. Donna Meade for their dedication, commitment, and work putting this project together which we all will enjoy for years to come."

So far, about, 40 veterans have come forward and been verified, according to Light Up Palmer's Facebook page. Anyone who is a veteran or knows of one who was awarded the Purple Heart is welcome to contact Brin at 413-283-2610 or email trbin@townofpalmer.com, prior to April 19.

RIVER | from page 1

which falls on April 22.

"The Palmer Conservation Commission has been hosting river clean ups on an annual or semi-annual basis since 2015," Sarah Fortune, conservation assistant for the Palmer Conservation Commission, said.

"This is the second Earth Day river clean-up since the first one, which occurred in 2018 and had approximately 50 volunteers. Our largest river clean up was the 2019 Source to Sea event which had approximately 114 volunteers."

This river sweep will be held in partnership with American Rivers, the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council, Keep Palmer Clean, and Country Bank. Fortune said being good stewards of the rivers is not just important for the present.

"The Palmer Conservation Commission is committed to keeping our four major rivers — Quaboag, Ware, Swift and Chicopee — clean so we can protect and restore them for us and future generations," she said. "Participating in a river cleanup is one way that citizens can do their part for the rivers we all love." Fortune said.

"Rivers connect us to each other, to nature, and to future generations," said Bob Irvin, President of American Rivers.

"It is wonderful to see so many people in Palmer and across the country taking action to protect and restore their rivers and clean water. We applaud the work of the Palmer Conservation Commission and the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council for the work they do on behalf of the river and the community."

The event begins at Laviolette

Field in Three Rivers at 8:30 a.m. rain to shine.

"We will be focusing on cleaning up the field and the nearby Quaboag River," Fortune said. "Volunteers are welcome to clean up other rivers or other areas in town, but folks should plan to come by Laviolette Field at 8:30 a.m. to sign in for the event and get trash bags, hand sanitizer, snacks, and gloves if needed."

What areas of the park and river volunteers police and how much trash and debris they remove is up to them, Fortune said.

"Volunteers are encouraged to work within their comfort zone," she said.

"For some folks, that means scaling river banks to get to trash, whereas others might feel more comfortable remaining on level ground. Volunteers are certainly welcome to bring kayaks to facilitate access to trash in remote areas or within the river itself."

Why it matters

According to Fortune, river cleanups such as this are important for several reasons.

"And the most important of these reasons is to reduce pollution to our local waterways, which eventually drain to the Atlantic Ocean," she said.

"River clean-ups are also important to prepare recreational areas for the upcoming outdoor and recreation season. Clean-up events are additionally helpful in public education by helping folks to understand that everything is connected, and that trash littered today will eventually end up in the ocean."

Palmer has a special relationship



Courtesy photo
Local rivers are polluted and need stewardship to promote and maintain clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems, a local official said.

with its waterways. The name "Three Rivers" was no coincidence.

"Rivers are an integral part of the Town of Palmer, and several rivers serve as the town's boundary with other municipalities," Fortune said.

"Three Rivers in particular is situated at the heart of the Chicopee Watershed, the largest watershed in the state, and is located at the confluence of the Ware, Swift and Quaboag Rivers which flow together to create the Chicopee River. Several of Palmer's rivers, the Quaboag and the Ware in particular, are heavily polluted and require stewardship in order to promote and maintain clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems."

What to bring

Volunteers should wear appropriate clothing, including layers, sturdy shoes, and gloves. We're still in the midst of the pandemic, so all volunteers are required to wear a face mask while participating in the event. And have your smartphone handy because you never know what you'll find.

"The largest item removed from a previous river clean up was a mattress," Fortune said. "The strangest item removed from a previous event was boxer briefs — who forgets their underwear??!"

Want to sign up?

Everyone is invited to participate in the river clean-up. To sign up, contact Sarah Fortune at 413-626-7084 or sfortune@townofpalmer.com.

First-time homebuyer? Follow these steps

Is homeownership a goal of yours? It does offer some benefits, in addition to meeting your basic need for shelter. The equity you build in your home can be a valuable financial asset, and you may get to deduct your interest payments on your taxes. But if you're a first-time homebuyer, what steps should you take?

First, make sure the time is right for you in terms of your personal and financial situations. For example, are you fairly confident that your employment is stable and that your earnings won't decline? Of course, external events can also play a role in your decision. A recent study by Morning Consult and Edward Jones found that 12% of respondents postponed purchasing a house during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But if you're ready and eager for homeownership, consider the following moves:

Save for a down payment. The more money you put down for a home, the lower your monthly payments, although there's also a point at which overly large down payments can be financially unwise. However, if you can make a down payment of more than 20% of the purchase price, you can generally avoid having to pay for private mortgage insurance on top of your monthly payments. Also, as a first-time homebuyer, you might qualify for down payment assistance from your local or state housing authority or a nonprofit group.

Check your credit score. A higher credit score gives you a better chance for a lower interest rate. You can request a credit report from annualcreditreport.com, and you might be able to get a credit score for free from your bank. If you need to improve your score, you may want to delay your home purchase.

Learn how much you qualify for — and how much you should spend. Once you think you're ready to begin the home-purchasing process, you may want to contact a few lenders to determine the size of the mortgage for which you qualify. Be aware, though, that just because you can get a mortgage of a certain amount, does not necessarily mean that you should. You don't want to become "house poor" — that is, you don't want to spend so much on your house payments that you are cash strapped and can't afford to save for other goals, such as college for your children or a comfortable retirement. You may want to establish a budget for how much you can readily afford to pay for your mortgage each month — and try sticking to it before you buy the house. If you have extra savings, put it toward your down payment.

Prepare for unexpected costs. You can plan for your mortgage, utilities, taxes and insurance — but when you own a home, you'll always encounter unexpected costs. You may need to get a new furnace, repair your roof or face any number of other maintenance issues. To help prepare for these costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments or take on added debt to pay for these unanticipated expenses.

Homeownership can be a rewarding experience — and the rewards will be even greater when you've "done the numbers" and prepared yourself financially.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Edward Jones. Member SPIC.



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Financial Advisor
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

MONSON LIBRAY FUNDRAISER: Friends of the Monson Free Library "Round-up" at Adams will be available until April 12. Shoppers at the Adams Market on Main Street in Monson will have the opportunity to round up for the Friends. All donations will help to fund story hours, adult and youth programs, the purchase of museum passes as well as materials for the library.

FILM FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER: The Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Holyoke is hosting a virtual fundraising event featuring the 2021 Winnie Film Festival Tour. This film fest will feature exclusive world premier short documentary films that celebrate the healing powers of the horse. Enjoy two hours of inspiring and heart-warming films anytime from 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9, until 10 p.m. Sunday, April 11. Registration fee is \$25, which helps support the not-for-profit TEC. You'll be provided a link to stream to any smart device such as phones, tablets, and TVs. Binge in one sitting or stretch the viewing out over the entire weekend – the choice is yours! To register, go to tecders.org.

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM: Non-profit Dress Shop 11 a.m.-3 p.m. April 10 in Three Rivers. All volunteer run. They take formal attire donations and consign them back out for no cost or a donation. Allows ladies and gents and even the parents too, to be dressed to impress for prom season and other events without spending hundreds of dollars. This is an amazing way to recycle and not let items sit in the closet. Maddie's Dogs Hot Dog Cart will be on site serving purchased lunches!

SOON

EARTH DAY RIVER SWEEP: Volunteers needed for a river clean-up 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at Laviolette Field in Three Rivers – rain or shine. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines and social distancing protocols during the event. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Fortune at 413-626-7084 or sfortune@townofpalmer.com.

PLANT SALE: Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 8, at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo the corner of Main and Lincoln streets across from Memorial Hall starting at 9 a.m. A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available.

Plants come from members' gardens, and members will be available to answer questions. Proceeds go to local community projects such as downtown plantings, holiday greens, and a scholarship fund. Masks are required. Rain date is May 15.

AT THE PALMER LIBRARY

2020 Tax Forms are now available through the Palmer Public Library Curbside Pickup. To schedule a time to pick up forms, please visit palmerlibrary.org/tax-forms or call us at 413-283-3330 (press 0 then dial ext. 100).

Don't miss this year's Big Library Read title, "The Art of Taking it Easy" which is now available from OverDrive. From Dr. Brian King, a psychologist and stand-up comedian comes this practical, yet laugh-out-loud guide to embracing humor to reduce stress and live a happier, fuller life. Readers have unlimited access to the ebook until April 19 – with no waitlists or holds. To learn more, visit biglibraryread.com.

Make your garden pop! The Palmer Historical & Cultural Center & the Palmer Public Library Present "Design A Sunny Perennial Border," a virtual presentation with Author Jana Milbocker at 6 p.m. Friday, April 23. How do you create a sunny perennial garden that will delight you with colorful blooms and flowers for cutting from spring through fall? Join this Zoom presentation and learn about plant layering, new and reliable perennials, companion plants, and design techniques. Milbocker is the principal of Enchanted Gardens, as well as a lecturer and garden writer. Registration required at palmerlibrary.org.

AT THE HOLLAND LIBRARY

Join the Community Book Club: The book club will meet online via Zoom. Copies of the monthly book selection, in a variety of formats, are available for curbside checkout at the library. Contact the Holland Community Center for more information by calling them at 413-245-3163. Like them on Facebook for updates. To Join the Zoom meeting: Meeting ID: 736 9214 3025; Passcode: p95795.

ONGOING

EVERYONE INVITED TO AQUACISE: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow, offer Aquacise for residents of Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales.

Aquacise will be offered 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. To reserve a spot visit ludlowbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails. The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

PALMER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORCE: Consists of business owners,

community members, survivors and allies. The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force promotes education and awareness in the community while empowering, educating and providing resources to those who have been affected by domestic violence and/or intimate partner violence in Palmer or those who have found safety in Palmer. For help and meeting information, email palmerdvt@gmail.com. All contact is confidential.

MUSIC LESSONS, YOGA AND MORE: Just because days are short, and the thermometer reads cold doesn't mean there's nothing to do. Hitchcock Academy constantly works with instructors to offer options to its community members. Look for upcoming classes in yoga, tai chi, meditation, and fencing. Hitchcock Academy follows all current COVID guidelines for cleaning and social distancing and anyone using the facility must wear a mask.

All information regarding current class offerings, events, and registration are available at hitchcockacademy.org.

FREE FOOD PROGRAM: The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation has found a way to get food to families that need it. The Farmers to Families program, set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is part of a Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that help people all over the nation and has a site in Springfield open to all residents. The program will supply food kits with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products that distributes package into family-sized boxes. You can register for your food kit at mmsfi.org. On the website choose "Springfield, Ma" as your pick up site and sign-up. Register for one week or all four with easy one time registration. Food kit includes fresh dairy, protein, and produce totaling 30+ pounds of food. Military families are encouraged to sign-up but registration is open to the public.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children's books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-9952 for more information. While currently closed, we are anticipating reopening later this year.

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY: Want to learn more about local history? The Elbow Plantation Historical Society is available for research and other information. They can be reached at elbow.plantation@gmail.com. Send them your questions and comments and leave your preferred contact information and they will respond asap.

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and breakdown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

SALVATION ARMY ASSISTANCE: Residents of Palmer, Thorndike, Bondsville and Three Rivers seeking emergency help with fuel assistance, utility payments/shut off, food, and clothing can contact the Salvation Army in Canton, MA at 339-502-5900. This is the office located in Canton, MA. If eligible, staff there will be able to address your concerns and provide assistance until the local Palmer office is once again staffed by a volunteer outreach coordinator.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter informing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call 267-3866.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? "Christianity Explored" is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-250-8548.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month over Zoom. Contact Chair Karen Nothe-Valley at 413-846-3041 or karen_monsondems@yahoo.com.

WEEKLY CLASSES at Holland Community Center, 40 Brimfield Road, Holland. Mondays and Wednesdays lunch is served at noon, reservations required by calling 413-245-3163 and a \$2 donation is requested. Mondays at 10 a.m. is yoga class with Mah Jongg, and Monday evenings at 6 p.m.

is Texas Hold 'Em Tuesdays at 10 a.m. is the Coffee Social which is open to everyone, and Open Crafts are held on Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Zumba is held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Mah Jongg is at 1 p.m. and Yoga is at 5 p.m., plus Pitch at 6:30 p.m. Stained glass is every Thursday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. and Cribbage is weekly on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. Walking Club is on Thursdays at 4 p.m. The Billiard Room is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. For everyone. For more information, call 413-245-3163.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS is a nonprofit fellowship or society of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. The group is comprised of recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. Local meetings are held every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at The Living Room of Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St., Ware; every Monday at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, 22 Green St., Monson; Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Belchertown United Congregational Church, 18 Park St., Belchertown; every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and the Palmer Historical & Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers; and every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer. For more information or to find additional meetings throughout the New England area, visit www.nerna.org.

PALMER FOOD SHARE, INC., an emergency food pantry, is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Food Share is located at 39 Walnut St. in Palmer. Call 283-3614 with questions or to order pick up food.

AL-ANON FRIDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY meetings - a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve our common problems. We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery. Al-Anon has one purpose, to help families and friends of alcoholics. The group meets Fridays at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

GREENE ROOM PRODUCTIONS is seeking people who would like to support the arts by being a part of its fundraising committee/booster club. The club is looking to fundraise, find sponsors, donors, and underwriters for upcoming productions, workshops, and educational opportunities. All interested individuals are invited to the next board meeting. If you are interested in being a part of Greene Room Productions or for more information, contact Erin Greene at (413) 668-7284 as soon as possible.

FREE HEALTH SERVICES are available at the Monson Council on Aging from 9-11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Services include a free blood pressure and glucose check. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 267-4121. Walk-ins are welcome.



LIFE AFTER COVID

Survey says even with vaccine, Mass. residents expect a long recovery

SPRINGFIELD — Even with vaccines against COVID-19 becoming accessible to a larger portion of the public, Massachusetts residents are cautious about returning to pre-pandemic activities, according to the latest survey from the Western New England University Polling Institute.

The telephone survey of 415 adults, conducted March 1-31, found that 44% were still very or somewhat worried about contracting COVID-19, down from 64% in the last Polling Institute survey conducted Oct. 22-Nov. 24, 2020. Fifty-four percent said they are not very worried or not at all worried, up from 32 percent in the fall survey.

The current level of worry did not vary significantly based on whether a respondent had received a vaccine to protect against COVID-19. Thirty-four percent of the sample reported having received at least one dose of a vaccine. Among the vaccinated group 45% were still very or somewhat worried about contracting the virus, while

52% said they were not very or not at all worried.

Among adults who said they had not yet received a vaccine, 44% were very or somewhat worried and 54% said they were not very or not at all worried. The survey, which has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus six percentage points, also found:

Sixty percent of adults said they strongly or somewhat support the return of elementary school students to public school classrooms five days a week, which is underway in many schools across the state this week. Twenty-nine percent of respondents said they strongly or somewhat oppose the idea.

Perceptions of the safety of engaging in public activities ranging from dining indoors in restaurants to working out in gyms with masks and social distancing shifted slightly in the direction of greater perceived safety, but about half of all adults still view those activities as unsafe.

Tim Vercellotti, director of the Polling Institute and a professor of

political science at Western New England University, said the survey results depict a state that may be ready for life to return to some semblance of pre-pandemic activity, but that many adults are cautious about rushing too quickly to do so.

Among survey respondents who had yet to receive a vaccine, 68% said they would be very or somewhat likely to get the vaccine if it was available to them today, and 29% said they would be very or somewhat unlikely. Among all respondents to the fall 2020 survey, 59% said they would be very or somewhat likely to get the vaccine, while 38% percent said they would be very or somewhat unlikely.

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political science at Western New England University, said the survey results depict a state that may be ready for life to return to some semblance of pre-pandemic activity, but that many adults are cautious about rushing too quickly to do so.

More people are willing to get vaccinated, and there is some sense of diminished threat from COVID-19," Vercellotti said.

"But people still remain worried about contracting the virus, and a significant number believe that the pandemic is far from over."

When asked how long it would be before daily life could return to the way it was before the pandemic, 21% said "in more than a year," down eight points from 2020. Eighteen percent said a year, 16% chose seven to 11 months, 18% said four to six months, and 9% said three months or less, with the figures inching slightly in the direction of a shorter duration compared to the fall survey. Eight percent volunteered that their lives would never return to the way they were before the pandemic, compared to three

percent in the fall survey.

While the survey found that a majority of adults supported allowing students in kindergarten through fifth grade to return to classrooms five days a week, views varied significantly by gender, race/ethnicity, and age. Sixty-six percent of men and 54% of women strongly or somewhat supported the idea. Sixty-two percent of white respondents strongly or somewhat supported the policy, and 26% were somewhat or strongly opposed. Non-white respondents, which included African-Americans, individuals identifying as Latino or Hispanic, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and people identifying with more than one race, were almost evenly divided about the idea. Forty-seven percent were strongly or somewhat supportive, and 50% said they were strongly or somewhat opposed.

Among adults ages 18 to 39, 58 percent supported giving elementary students the chance to return full time, compared to 70 percent among respondents ages 65 and

older.

Thirty-four percent of adults and 37% of registered voters in the sample reported having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and the percentage across groups varied by political party, gender, race/ethnicity, and age. Forty-nine percent of Democrats said they had received at least one dose, compared to 22% of Republicans and 30% of unenrolled voters. Thirty-eight percent of women and 29% of men said they had received at least one dose of a vaccine. Thirty-four percent of white respondents and 25% of non-white respondents said the same.

Not surprisingly, given that the state's phased introduction of vaccination has been based in part on age, respondents 65 and older had the highest rate of vaccination, with 69% indicating they had received at least one dose.

Survey respondents overall gave Baker and the state passing grades for their management of the vaccination program, but only 11%

COVID | page 7

An eggsellent day for Easter fun

Photos special by Brett Miller



The egg hunt's organizers, Lori Chiacchia (left) and Mel Chase, said they hope to make it an annual event.



Kids gather eggs on a field at Pulaski Park.



One girl shows off what she found during the Easter egg hunt Saturday.



A child gets a little assistance with her egg-gathering.



The Easter Bunny made an appearance at the Easter-ific event.



Sitting for portraits is one of the Easter Bunny's many talents.

THREE RIVERS — Families gathered in Pulaski Park Saturday for the first annual Easter-ific Egg Hunt of Palmer. Besides the egg hunt, there was an appearance by the Easter Bunny and a raffle.

Colorful eggs were plenty in the Pulaski Park field.

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USDA INS. SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST \$2.99 lb

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USDA INS. FROZEN BEEF FEET \$1.99 lb

USDA INS. BONE-IN BEEF SHANKS \$2.49 lb

CUSTOMER PICK USDA INS. FRESH BONE-IN TOP BEEF SIRLOIN STEAK \$3.99 lb

USDA INS. FRESH 10 LB BAG BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN \$1.66 lb

USDA INS. FROZEN CHICKEN LEG 1/4S TRAY PAK 39¢ lb

USDA INS. FROZEN WHOLE CHICKENS 69¢ lb

USDA INS. FROZEN MAPLE FLAVOR FULLY COOKED SAUSAGE LINKS \$1.99 lb

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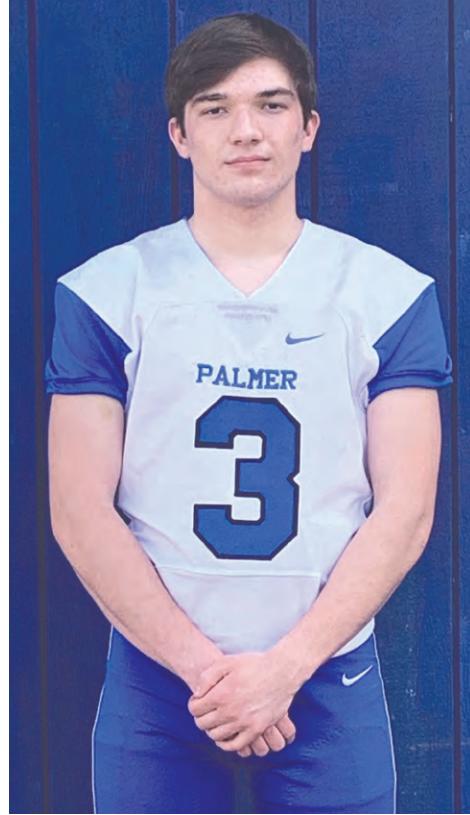


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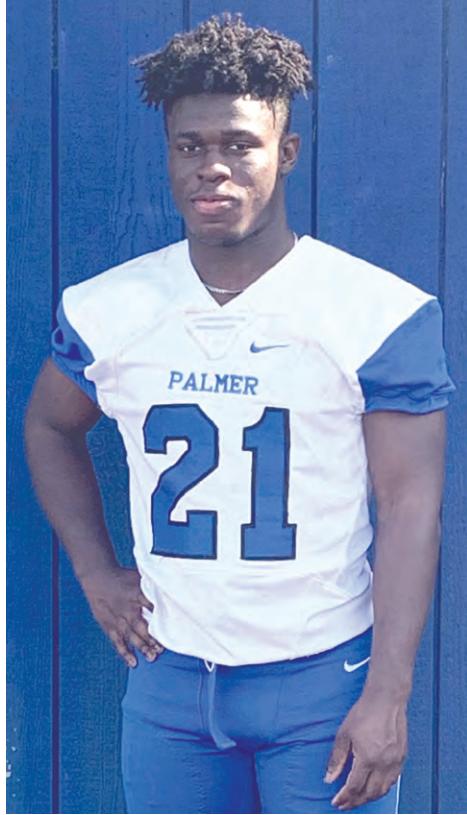
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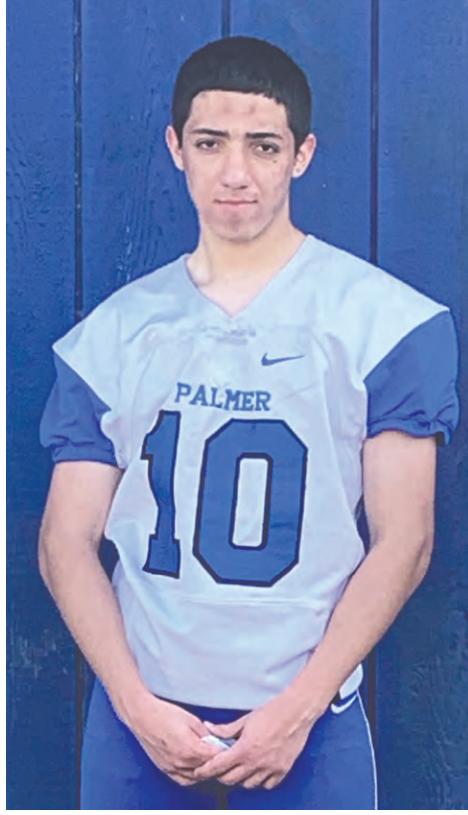
Jacob Mastalerz



Markys Lissaint



Aidan Connan



Juny McCall



Michael Malcovsky

PHOTOS BY JOLENE MASTALERZ

Palmer seniors a 'good group of football players'

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER — While most of the high school rivalry football games in Western Massachusetts take place on Thanksgiving morning, it has never been the case with either Ware or Palmer.

The two high schools, which are located about 10 miles apart, have battled each other on the gridiron during the regular season since 1925.

The 95th annual meeting was scheduled to take place under the lights at Ware High School on Friday night. Unfortunately, the contest has been postponed. A member of the Palmer football program tested positive for COVID-19.

The Panthers, who also had two other games postponed due to COVID-19 issues, posted a 32-0 shutout in their season opener at Chicopee High School on March 20. "We've been practicing and

not playing a game at the end of the week has been a little bit frustrating," said Palmer varsity football coach Matt Marciniec, during a zoom interview held prior to the positive COVID test result. "We're just hoping the number of COVID cases in Palmer keep going down each week, so we're able to get back on the field again."

Marciniec, who graduated from Palmer High School in 2005, replaced Peter Farr as the Panthers varsity football coach a couple of years ago. He's also the Athletic Director and a teacher at the high school.

Marciniec enjoys teaching his players about the history of the rivalry series with Ware.

"The players, who have played in the past games, already know a little about it," he said. "I do try to teach the younger players about the history of the rivalry game every year. The players on both teams know each other, which makes the

rivalry game extra special. It's always a fun week preparing to play Ware."

The Indians, who hold a slim 46-43-5 overall lead in the series, have won seven of the past eight games, including the last four years. The final score of last year's contest, which took place at Legion Field in Palmer, was 34-28.

"Ware has been a very good football team during the past couple of years and they're a well-coached team," Marciniec said. "It's always a challenge whenever we play them."

The only time that the Panthers have received the Rotary Club Trophy, which goes to the winning team, during the past eight years was following a 14-6 victory at Legion Field in 2015.

Almost every game between the two football teams have been played on a Saturday afternoon during the fall. This year's game would've been played on a Friday night for the first time in more than twenty years.

"I know a lot of traditionalists always wants the game to be played on a Saturday afternoon," Marciniec said. "I think playing the game on a Friday night this year would be something normal, especially after the past year."

The five seniors listed on the Palmer football roster are Mike Malcovsky, Aidan Connan, Markys Lissaint, Hermino Medina, and Jacob Mastalerz.

"The seniors are a very good group of football players," Marciniec said. "One of my colleagues recently asked me if Jacob could stay after school for a A.P. study session. I said sure, but my team will look very different at practice without having him there. He's one of our team leaders this year."

All of the Panthers seniors are team captains.

Jack Letendre, who's a junior, is the Panthers second-year starting quarterback.

"Jack always tries his best in

everything that he does," Marciniec said. "He's always prepares for every game and knows where everyone should be on the field."

In the season opening victory against the Pacers, Letendre completed five passes for a total of 52 yards. He threw a TD pass and scored a rushing touchdown.

The other juniors listed on the varsity football roster are Brady Goguen, Chance Lee, Ethan Tremblay, Mike Ziembra, Robert Burke, Roman Cardenales, Anthony Ukrainets, Logan Fontaine, and Jaden Nava.

"The juniors are good kids and they really enjoy playing football," Marciniec said. "We're looking forward to coaching them for one more season."

Ukrainets, who's a receiver, caught a TD pass against Chicopee.

He also recovered a fumble and had an interception.

Jaden Nava's younger brother, Xavier, who's a sophomore, rushed

for 80 yards in the first game of the Fall II season.

Sebastian Nava is a freshman.

"The Nava brothers are home school students and they lived in Texas for a long time. They're first-year members of our football team," Marciniec said. "Xavier is a totally different running back than we've had here at Palmer High School in a very long time. He'll run over whoever is standing in his way."

The other members of the Palmer varsity football team are sophomore Drew McAlary, sophomore Keith Lavallie, sophomore Brady Goguen, sophomore Jason Cousineau, sophomore Damon Cardenales, sophomore Dominic Allen, freshman Tanner Kirk, eighth grader Jesse Taylor, and eighth grader Madison Rathbone.

The Panthers assistant coaches, who are all graduates of Palmer High School, are Dylan Kirkland, Ryan Dougherty, Jacob Graveline, and Ryan Moore.

Palmer High School Football – 2020-2021 Roster

No.	Name	Position	Grade
3	Jacob Mastalerz	RB/LB	12
5	Jack Letendre	QB/DB	11
7	Drew McAlary	WR/DB	10
8	Brady Goguen	RB/DB	11
9	Madison Rathbone	WR/DB	8
10	Herminio Medina	WR/DB	12
12	Brady Stahelski	QB/DB	10
21	Markys Lissaint	RB/LB	12
24	Chance Lee	RB/DB	11
27	Ethan Tremblay	WR/DB	11
30	Keith Lavalle	RB/LB	10
33	Sebastian Nava	RB/LB	9
35	Xavier Nava	RB/LB	10
40	Brady Goguen	RB/DB	10
42	Mike Ziembra	TE/LB	11
52	Robert Burke	OL/LB	11
55	Jason Cousineau	OL/DE	10
57	Damon Cardenales	OL/DE	10
62	Jesse Taylor	OL/DT	8
66	Aidan Connan	OL/DT	12
71	Dominic Allen	OL/DT	10
79	Roman Cardenales	OL/DT	11
81	Anthony Ukrainets	WR/DB	11
85	Tanner Kirk	WR/DB	9
87	Logan Fontaine	TE/DE	11
88	Jaden Nava	TE/DE	11

Palmer Football (1-0)

Week 1 – Saturday, March 20 – Palmer 32, Chicopee 0
 Week 2 – Saturday, March 27 – Game cancelled
 Week 3 – Saturday, April 3 – vs. Belchertown – Game cancelled
 Week 4 – Friday, April 9 – at Ware 6:30 p.m. – Game postponed
 Week 5 – Friday, April 16 – No game scheduled
 Week 6 – Friday, April 23 – at Ludlow 6 p.m.

Palmer Senior Cheerleaders



Senior members of the Palmer Cheer squad are (l to r) Olivia Sloat, Captain Sasha Bernard, Captain Emma Rock and Abby Rathbone who took a moment to smile for the camera during a recent cheer practice. Unfortunately, the cheer squad was unable to cheer at recent games due to COVID restrictions, they did however video and post on social media their support for the Palmer Panther team.

Ware riding run of recent success

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

advanced to the finals in 2017 and 2019.

The five seniors, who have been members of the Indians varsity football team during the past 36 games, are Jack Tweedie, Keith Smith, Shawn Santiago, Myles McGrail, and Dillon Slattery.

"Those five guys joined our football team as kids and they're leaving as young

men," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "It has been a pleasure for me and the other coaches to watch them grow during the past few years."

Tweedie, Smith, McGrail, and Slattery are the Indians captains this season. The four some were also captains of last year's squad, which finished with a 9-2.

Smith, who became

a member of the elite 1,000-point club in his final high school basketball game, suffered a right thumb injury in the season opening football game against Belchertown. He'll be sidelined for the rest of the football season.

The other six seniors listed on this year's Indians roster are Dominic Velazquez, Aiden

Past results

With their 2019 win, their sixth in their last seven years, Ware leads all-time series 46-43-5.

1925	Palmer 0	Ware 0
1926	Ware 13	Palmer 7
1927	Palmer 13	Ware 7
1928	Palmer 13	Ware 6
1929	Ware 13	Palmer 2
1930	Ware 13	Palmer 6
1931	Palmer 6	Ware 0
1932	Palmer 34	Ware 0
1933	Palmer 32	Ware 0
1934	Palmer 14	Ware 13
1935	Palmer 14	Ware 13
1936	Ware 12	Palmer 6
1937	Palmer 0	Ware 0
1938	Ware 26	Palmer 6
1939	Ware 13	Palmer 0
1940	Ware 6	Palmer 0
1941	Palmer 0	Ware 0
1942	Palmer 39	Ware 0
1943	Palmer 62	Ware 0
1944	No game	No game
1945	Palmer 15	Ware 0
1946	Palmer 0	Ware 0
1947	Palmer 13	Ware 6
1948	Ware 14	Palmer 7
1949	Palmer 24	Ware 0
1950	Palmer 51	Ware 6
1951	Palmer 25	Ware 14
1952	Palmer 32	Ware 13
1953	Palmer 32	Ware 13
1954	Palmer 34	Ware 13
1955	Palmer 6	Ware 0
1956	Palmer 13	Ware 6
1957	Ware 54	Palmer 13
1958	Ware 10	Palmer 0
1959	Ware 24	Palmer 14
		(win Guard Trophy)
1960	Palmer 14	Ware 0
1961	Palmer 22	Ware 14
1962	Palmer 14	Ware 0
1963	Palmer 28	Ware 14
1964	Palmer 28	Ware 6
1965	Palmer 28	Ware 0

RESULTS | page 10

WARE | page 10

Panthers comeback falls short against Ware



Alex Gladkowski makes the tackle on a Ware ball carrier.



Jacob Mastalerz makes run up the middle.



PALMER – In the 2019 game held at Palmer High School, Palmer made a valiant comeback late in the game, but could not overcome Ware's hot start. Ware came away with a 34-28 win the last time the two neighboring rivals got together.

Keith Smith tries to run away from a keeper.



Andrew Solty's attempts to get the sack on Palmer quarterback Jack Letendre.

Brady Goguen goes for the tackle of Ware's Keith Smith.



Quarterback Jack Letendre drops back to pass.



Mark Lissaint comes down with the reception.



WARE | from page 9

Clark, Austin Mascroft, Rockeem Handfield, John Solty's, and Devin Henry.

"We do have a great group of seniors this year," Fazio said. "Ware is a small community and they've been playing different sports together for many years."

Solty's, who was a key member of the Indians golf team, and Henry, who has been a member of the Indians boys' soccer team during the fall, are first-year players on the football team.

"All of us seniors have very good chemistry both on and off the field," said Slattery, who's also an outstanding baseball and basketball player. "All of us are good friends."

Slattery isn't the first member of his family to wear a Ware football uniform. His father, Scott, played football at Ware High School in the late 1980's. He's currently an assistant football coach, along with Nick Vantangoli.

Devin Slattery, who's a sophomore on the UMass Boston baseball team, graduated from Ware High School in 2018.

In last Saturday's 14-0 shutout road victory against the Chicopee Pacers, Dillon Slattery, who's the Indians starting quarterback, scored a rushing touchdown in the middle of the first quarter. He then threw a five-yard TD pass to junior Andrew Solty's five minutes into the second stanza.

Handfield rushed for a team-leading 60 yards on 10 carries in the first ever meeting on the gridiron against Chicopee.

The defensive unit, which was led by junior Quintin Davis, took care of the rest of the business. It was the Indians first shutout since they defeated rival Quaboag, 8-0, in the 2019 Thanksgiving Day game.

Davis recorded five sacks and he also blocked a punt setting up the Indians first touchdown against the Pacers.

Fazio, who's a math teacher at Ware High School, became an assistant football coach when the seniors were sophomores. He replaced Jim Haupt as the varsity football coach the following year.

"When I took over as the vari-

ty football coach, we decided to put in a different offense and a different defense," Fazio said. "That group of players bought in right away. It showed in today's game against a bigger school."

The eleven Indians seniors were scheduled to be honored in a senior night ceremony before facing archrival Palmer for the 95th time in a home game on Friday night. Unfortunately, that contest has been postponed because a member of the Palmer football program tested positive for COVID-19.

"Our guys look forward to playing Palmer every year," Fazio said. "They know every player on the Palmer team."

Fazio, along with his assistant coaches found out that the Palmer game had been postponed last Friday. Fazio didn't tell his players about the postponement until after the Chicopee game.

"Palmer is our biggest rival, and it was heart wrenching when coach told us next week's game has been postponed," Tweedie said. "We're hoping that the game does

get rescheduled before the end of the football season. My dad, Jeff, also played football for Ware. He's always telling me stories from when he played football against Palmer. It's a great game to be a part of."

No current Ware football player has ever suffered a loss to Palmer.

The Indians, who hold a slim 46-43-5 overall lead in the series with Palmer, have won seven of the past eight games.

The Indians posted a 41-6 victory in 2017, a 19-6 win in 2018, and the final score of last year's contest was 34-28, which was played at Legion Field in Palmer.

"It's a little bit disappointing that we won't be playing Palmer next week, but we're still hoping to face them later in the season," said Dillon Slattery. "It's a big rivalry game and it has been going on for so long. You never know what's going to happen in that game."

Dillon's father gave his thoughts about playing and coaching in the rivalry game.

"It's probably one of the biggest rivalry games in Western Mass."

Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Jacob Mastalerz

Palmer High School



Mastalerz is one of the seniors on the Palmer High School football team, which had its rival game against Ware postponed. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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RESULTS | from page 9

1966	Palmer 34	Ware 6	1994	Ware 14	Palmer 7
1967	Palmer 13	Ware 6	1995	Ware 8	Palmer 6
1968	Ware 18	Palmer 6 (snowstorm moved game to Nov. 23)	1996	Palmer 21	Ware 12
1969	Palmer 42	Ware 6	1997	Ware 28	Palmer 6
1970	Ware 12	Palmer 6	1998	Ware 30	Palmer 0
1971	Ware 6	Palmer 2	1999	Ware 42	Palmer 0
1972	Palmer 26	Ware 9	2000	Ware 34	Palmer 0
1973	Palmer 14	Ware 12	2002	Ware 20	Palmer 6
1974	Ware 14	Palmer 6	2003	Ware 20	Palmer 14
1975	Ware 18	Palmer 6	2004	Ware 43	Palmer 6
1976	Palmer 8	Ware 0	2005	Palmer 12	Ware 0
1977	Ware 20	Palmer 0	2006	Ware 8	Palmer 6
1978	Palmer 6	Ware 0	2007	Palmer 26	Ware 6
1979	Ware 38	Palmer 12	2008	Palmer 33	Ware 0
1980	Ware 21	Palmer 0	2009	Ware 16	Palmer 6
1981	Ware 27	Palmer 0	2010	Palmer 33	Ware 0
1982	Palmer 12	Ware 6	2011	Palmer 21	Palmer 20
1983	Ware 10	Palmer 6	2012	Ware 29	Palmer 0
1984	Ware 7	Palmer 0	2013	Ware 20	Palmer 0
1985	Palmer 26	Ware 6	2014	Ware 14	Palmer 0
1986	Palmer 34	Ware 14	2015	Palmer 14	Ware 6
1987	Palmer 16	Ware 0	2016	Ware 26	Palmer 6
1988	Palmer 14	Ware 12	2017	Ware 41	Palmer 6
1989	Ware 21	Palmer 7	2018	Ware 19	Palmer 6
1990	Ware 28	Palmer 6	2019	Ware 34	Palmer 28
1991	Ware 14	Palmer 14	2020	No game played - pandemic	
1992	Ware 46	Palmer 0			
1993	Ware 34	Palmer 27			

Ware High School Football – 2020-2021 Roster

No.	Name	Position	Grade	35	Jadrien Berthiaume	RB/LB	8
1	Matthew Gambino	DL/OL	11	36	Gavin Sawabi	WR/LB	8
4	Andrew Solty's	DB/WR	11	45	Nathan Luxon	RB/LB	8
7	Devin Henry	WR/DB	12	55	Nicholas Gambino	OL/LB	11
8	Quintin Davis	LB/RB	11	56	Camren McCormick	OL/DL	10
9	Logan Bernier	DB/WR	11	57	John Auchter	OL/DL	10
10	Kolby McDonell	RB/DB	10	61	Jack Tweedie	OL/DL	12
11	Dillon Slattery	QB/DL	12	65	Austin Mascroft	OL/DL	12
12	Miles McGrail	DB/TE	12	66	Kyle Gordon	OL/DL	9
13	Cody St. Cyr	RB/LB	11	67	Aiden Clark	OL/DL	12
17	John Solty's	WR/DB	12	68	Gabriel Phillips	OL/DL	10
18	Shawn Santiago	WR/DB	12	72	Phillip Fox	OL/DL	10
19	Cameron Miarecki	WR/DB	8	74	Dominic Velazquez	OL/DL	12
21	Rockeem Handfield	LB/RB	12	75	Gavin Rohan	OL/DL	11
22	Keith Smith	WR/LB	12	81	Kyle Safford	RB/LB	9
33	Tyler Orszulak	TE/LB	11	88	Donald Charron	OL/DL	8
34	Andrew Bonnayer	RB/DB	11	99	Nathan Harmon	OL/DL	8

It's a lot more than just a football game. It's the pep rallies, the senior banquet, and everything else that leads up to it," said Scott Slattery, who's also the Indians boys' j.v basketball coach and the varsity baseball coach. "All of our players want to play against Palmer and I'm sure they want to play against us this year."

When the Fall II football schedule was first announced, the rivalry game wasn't even listed on it.

"We weren't originally scheduled to play Palmer in football this year and I didn't really think very much about it until I spoke with my coaches," said Ware Athletic Director Thomas Shamgochian. "Coach Slattery said that it's a game that the boys always look forward to playing every year."

Shamgochian then called Palmer Athletic Director Matt Marciniec, who's also the Panthers varsity football coach.

"Matt and I are both new Athletic Directors and we've worked very well together during the past couple of years," Shamgochian

said. "I then sent a message to (Ludlow A.D.) Tim Brillo, who was one of the people in charge of making the football schedule. I asked him if we could make some changes to the schedule, so we could add the Palmer-Ware game. Tim was able to switch a couple of other games around during week 4 allowing us to play Palmer."

Fazio really appreciates all of the hard work Shamgochian has done for his football program this year.

"Tom is the best A.D. around," Fazio said. "He has done more for our football program and for our kids than anyone could ask. When ever we need anything, he responds in three seconds."

Even if the football game between Palmer and Ware isn't rescheduled before the Fall II season ends on April 25, it will be only five or six months until the two squads meet again on the gridiron on a crisp fall Saturday afternoon. The 11 seniors on this year's team will probably be rooting for their former teammates from the sideline.

State tournament added for spring sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — This fall, a statewide tournament will take the place of the Western Massachusetts tournaments schools in the region have been used to for many years.

This school year was supposed to be the final year of the sectional tournaments held that are sponsored by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. However, two of those tournaments, the fall and winter, were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It also cancelled what existed for a state tournament, which consisted of sectional champion versus sectional champion. The four sectional champions would meet in semifinals and then finals.

While the MIAA was looking to hold a spring tournament, it was only going to occur at the sectional level. Now, the Board of Directors have approved the two-game state tournaments for the spring season, which will begin on Monday, April 26. There will be a short presaison and games will begin in early May.

The spring season is set to include baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, outdoor track, and boys volleyball. It is also supposed to include wrestling, a winter sport that was deemed to high to happen

during the winter while there was a second major spike in COVID-19 cases.

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee met on Thursday, March 25 to discuss the spring tournaments.

The key to tournaments will take place on June 2. That is the deadline for teams to opt in or out of the tournament. Schools will have the ability to decide, for the safety of their students, whether or not they will participate in a spring tournament. The opt-in or out is for schools that may be in high-risk areas and do not want to risk facing teams they may not normally see.

Since the pandemic, schools in Western and Central Massachusetts have been placed in geographically-centered pods to limit travel and exposure.

The spring tournament is set to start on June 16 and 17 with a June 15 cut-off date for regular season games. A short spring season is not unusual to teams as the first two weeks of spring often are filled with weather issues, and rain can sometimes cancel many baseball and softball games.

There will be no neutral sites for the tournament, and the higher seed will be the home team through the tournament. However, it is not known if neutral sites will be used in the two-game state tournament.

All NE-10 colleges to make playoffs

COLCHESTER, Vt. — The Northeast-10 Conference unveiled its postseason plan for the spring semester on Thursday, announcing all baseball, men's and women's lacrosse, softball and men's and women's tennis programs will automatically qualify for league tournaments while also revealing the date and location of the men's golf championship. Saint Michael's College sponsors all seven of these sports, with each program having begun competition already this spring.

Similar to the adjustments made to spring schedules as part of the conference's return-to-play plan, the NE10 has altered postseason competition formats in an effort to reduce travel and allow for regular COVID-19 surveillance testing. The allowance of full-field postseason formats factors in the reality of teams not being able to complete their full regular-season schedules due to COVID-19 protocol and therefore allows each team the opportunity to compete for a league championship.

Key changes to the normal postseason format includes a one-day, 36-hole men's golf championship on April 20 at Springfield Country Club in West Springfield, Mass. For baseball, women's lacrosse and softball, whose regular seasons are being played within divisions, the postseason format retains a divisional format until the final championship event or series. Both divisions have their own seven-team bracket to de-

termine which two schools will play for that NE10 championship, as the top seed from each draws a first-round bye while the second through fourth seeds host opening-round contests. The women's lacrosse tournament begins on April 30, softball on May 4 and baseball on May 11. Divisional finals for baseball and softball are best-of-three series before the Northeast and Southwest division winners meet in another best-of-three set.

The seven-team men's tennis championship begins on April 24, when the No. 1 seed receives a bye while the second-through fourth-seeded squads host opening-round matches. Women's tennis and men's lacrosse, which start on April 25 and 28, respectively, will fea-

ture 11-team brackets, with the top five squads in each receiving first-round byes. The sixth, seventh and eighth seeds host opening-round contests.

All brackets or schedules are subject to change based on the established institutional and conference health protocol. The health and safety of student-athletes, coaches and campus communities remains the primary focus for the league. Conference winning percentage will determine championship seeding for team sports, with higher seeds serving as the host institutions throughout the tournaments. All game and match times are to be determined.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION — The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and

players who are not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 11.

The league's first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league's website.

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks new players

REGION — The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25. Games are 12 Sundays, a special Mother's Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final week of July

with the playoffs for the top four teams during the first two weeks of August. Tryouts are set for the first three weekends in April. Tryouts will be Saturday, April 3, Sunday, April 11, and Sunday, April 18, all weather-permitting. A draft for new players will be held after the final tryout. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at jnason@comcast.net.



The Big Outlaw Open starts this weekend with the Thompson Icebreaker 125.

Thompson Icebreaker 125 just the start of Big Outlaw Open season

WATERBURY, Vt. — Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is just over a week away from the annual Icebreaker. The 82nd season opener on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11 is headlined by the Icebreaker 125 for the new Outlaw Open Modified Series, pitting the region's Tour-type Modified stars in a \$10,000-to-win showdown.

Noted open-wheel racers such as Doug Coby, Craig Lutz, Bobby Santos III, Jon McKenna, and Matt Swanson are officially committed to the Icebreaker 125. The Sunday shootout is just the beginning, though. Six Outlaw Open Series events are planned for the 2021 season with big purses and even bigger action.

It culminates with the return of the Thompson 300. The \$20,000-to-win event is part of the World Series of Speedway Racing on October 8-10. It's been 16 years since the late Ted Christopher won the last Thomson 300 in 2005. Not only is the Icebreaker 125 important in its own right, but it also starts preparations for an event that is hallowed in Modified lore.

"The Icebreaker is always the big opener in New England to get back going and get started racing again, so I'm definitely looking forward to that," two-time Modified Racing Series champion Chris Pasteryak said. "As for the season in general, the way I look at it is that the Thompson 300 is the biggest Modified race of the year. So the more laps we get at Thompson over the course of the year leading up to the 300, hopefully the better we can run in it."

In-between the Icebreaker 125 and the Thompson 300 are four \$5,000-to-win Wednesday night shows on June 16, July 7, August 11, and September 15. The Wednesday dates make it easy for teams to tackle the Thompson high banks without weekly or touring series conflicts.

In the meantime, all eyes are on the Icebreaker showdown. The event is 125 green-flag laps with teams allowed to use eight tires. Racers have to be fast and use the right strategy to stand in Victory Lane.

"I love it," Oakdale, CT's Zachem said of the 125-lap distance. "It's a pit-stop race, so more or less, you are racing to halfway to figure out your pit stop situation. I'm looking forward to it. We've always run well over at Thompson."

It's definitely going to make a difference," Moosup, CT's Pasteryak added. "When you're counting caution laps and you get to 50 or 60 laps to go, you normally only count on getting about 35 of them under green. Whereas now when you get to 50 or 60 to go, there's still potentially a pretty long race left. And then you know that, if you have some tires left in the pit stall, or you want to try a strategy where you hold off and pit a little bit later, you know you're going to have

that many laps to actually try and race your way back to the front and not just ride around behind the pace car to finish the day."

A total of 29 drivers have pre-entered the event, including Keith Rocco, Mike Christopher Jr., Eric Goodale, Andrew Krause, Patrick Emerling, and Jeff Gallup. The current entry list alone accounts for dozens of championships and hundreds of race wins. Several other teams have indicated they'll be there, setting up a stacked field with many potential winners.

The Outlaw Open Modified Series is the brainchild of PASS's Tom Mayberry and ACT's Cris Michaud, who are co-promoting the Thompson Speedway oval track events this season. The duo put on two events at Thompson in 2020 and have banded together to carry on the track's storied tradition.

Thompson Speedway opened in 1940 and was long known as the "Indianapolis of the East," attracting every notable name in motorsports. Even today, the track is revered among the racing community. Drivers such as Ryan Preece, Harrison Burton, Bobby Santos III, and Derek Griffith have used Thompson victories as a springboard to national opportunities.

"What Cris Michaud and Tom Mayberry have done for Thompson is huge," Zachem said. "Taking the chance last year to run the track, with everything going on with COVID...I started at the Little T Speedway in 2000 and everyone's dream is to run the big track one day and I made it there. It's really cool to see the track still going."

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. Ten local and regional series go green at the two-day racing festival. Sunday's card features the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series. There's also a 40-lap ACT-type Late Model shootout plus the Limited Sportsman and SK Light Modifieds. Post time is 1:15pm.

Saturday's six-division card is highlighted by the Thompson 75 for the PASS North Super Late Models beginning at 1:00pm. They're joined by the Sunoco Modifieds, NEMA LITES Midgets, EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge, Mini Stocks, and an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open. An optional Test N' Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 for all Icebreaker divisions.

Adult general admission is \$30 for Saturday and \$35 for Sunday. Kids ages 12 and under are \$10 each day. Advance tickets are available at <https://happysnow.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHQP>. Grandstand attendance is limited to 50% of capacity per Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines. Pit passes will be sold at the track.

GAME from page 1

and quarterback Jordan Talbot, offered similar sentiments about his teammates and the game against The Blue Devils.

"We are a young team and even though we only have 13 players on the team they come everyday, put in the work to get better, and have a lot to prove," Talbot said.

"Northampton was a tough team to start the season off with but we got some good looks and some things we can work on throughout the season to take with the younger guys next year and to build the team's chemistry and numbers in the future."

Baldyga said he cannot wait for parents to be allowed to return to the games and watch their kids play and for other fans to be able to show their support in person.

STCC Diversity Series to host artist, author and 'cookie activist' Jasmine M. Cho

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Technical Community College Diversity Speaker and Performance series will host Pittsburgh-based artist, author and activist Jasmine M. Cho in a virtual format on April 14 at 12:15 p.m.

Cho, a self-described "cookie activist," puts faces onto cookies she bakes to elevate representation for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She is also a Food Network champion and the founder of an online bakery called Yummyholic.

Her cookie activism has been featured internationally on various media outlets that include NPR, HuffPost, CBS This Morning, and The Korea Daily. In 2019, Cho gave a TEDx talk on her work that immediately went viral and has since reached over 47,000 views.

Cho has received numerous accolades including CREATOR of the Year by the Pittsburgh Technology Council, the Small Business Community Champion

Award by Citizens Bank, and was also awarded a Mayor's Proclamation declaring Jan. 28, 2020, as "Jasmine Cho Day" by the City of Pittsburgh. Expanding to traditional fine art while pursuing art therapy studies, Cho wrote, illustrated, and published her first children's book, "Role Models Who Look Like Me: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Who Made History."

The Diversity Speaker and Performance Series, coordinat-

ed by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, brings a global array of speakers and performers to campus.

The series, which is free and open to the public as well as STCC students, currently offers live virtual performances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cho is the final speaker of the spring 2021 semester.

To register for the online event featuring Cho, visit stcc.edu/diversity.

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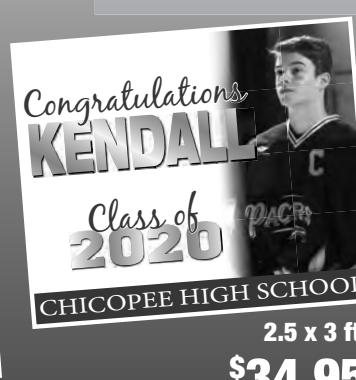
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Factors to consider before choosing a summer camp

Adults often look back fondly on their childhood experiences at summer camp. Camps can provide the opportunity to form lifelong friendships and discover rewarding hobbies that can enrich campers' lives for decades to come.

Choosing a summer camp is no small task, as the options at families' disposal range from overnight camps to weekday afternoon camps to camps that specialize in certain programs, such as music or dance. Cost also is likely to factor into families' decisions, as the American Camp Association notes that cost can vary greatly depending on which camp families choose. For example, the ACA notes that the average daily fee at a resident camp is \$85, while the same fee at a day camp is \$43.

When looking for a summer camp for kids, families should make the decision together. Kids should be involved in the selection process, as they're more likely to have an enjoyable camp experience if they had a say in where they will be spending their summers. The following are some factors families should consider as they look for summer camps, courtesy of the ACA.

Kids' interests

The ACA urges parents to consider the child's interests and per-



sonality before choosing a summer camp. Parents might want their children to attend the same summer camp they visited as youngsters, but each child is different. Just because mom and dad liked a particular camp does not mean their children will. The ACA notes that summer camps should align with children's interests and maturity level.

Locale

Locale may only be a consideration for families considering overnight camps. Kids will likely be familiar with the locations of local day camps, but overnight camps might be set in mountain ranges, near the ocean or environments less familiar to youngsters. Kids who love the ocean might benefit from ocean-

front camps that focus on marine biology, boating or other activities involving the water. In the same vein, youngsters who like camping and hiking might be more likely to embrace camps located in mountainous regions.

Summer camps give kids a chance to make memories that will last a lifetime. Choosing the right camp is an important decision that parents and kids should make together.

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Stoneleigh-Burnham School Offers In-Person Day & Residential Summer Camps

GREENFIELD, MA. Stoneleigh-Burnham School (SBS), an independent day and boarding school in Greenfield, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce in-person day and residential summer camps for equestrians, performing artists, debaters and public speakers ages 7-18. SBS's signature summer programs are hosted by expert faculty on their beautiful 100-acre campus in Greenfield. The programs emphasize the development of confidence, the acquisition of skills, and the discovery of new talents.

SBS's Summer Camps begin June 20, 2021 and include Speak Up I, an introduction to debate & public speaking for girls ages 10-13; Speak Up II, an advanced program for girls ages 13-18 with experience in debate & public speaking; Performing Arts Camp, a coed program for students

ages 10-18 with an interest in dancing, singing and acting; the premier Bonnie Castle Riding Camp, a riding program for girls ages 8-16 for all skill levels; and a new Horsemanship Day Camp for boys and girls ages 7-12.

Parents and guardians will be able to choose between three choices of camp structure: a day camp schedule from 8am-4pm that includes lunch, an extended day camp schedule from 8am-8pm that includes lunch and dinner, or the weekly residential camp option. There are discounts available for returning families, families who register more than one child, or those who sign up for multiple weeks. Financial assistance for day campers may also be available to those who qualify.

SBS Summer Program Director Heidi Gebo has been directing youth camps throughout Massachusetts' Pi-

oneer Valley for 20 years. "It's important for us to be able to offer a diverse array of camp options for students and give families multiple options to help accommodate their work schedules," said Heidi.

To learn more or to register, please visit sbschool.org/summer or email summerprograms@sbschool.org.

Stoneleigh-Burnham School has (SBS) been preparing girls grades 7-12 & PG for college and the world. SBS is an academic community with an international perspective that inspires girls to pursue meaningful lives based on honor, respect, and intellectual curiosity. Each student is challenged to discover her best self and graduate with the confidence to think independently and act ethically, secure in the knowledge that her voice will be heard.

Greene Acres for those horse enthusiasts

BELCHERTOWN – Queue the Green Acres theme song because it is true, Greene Acres is the place to be. From the farm's beauty to the great people, it is an overall fantastic atmosphere and is an exceptional place to go for riding lessons, boarding, and summer camp. The lesson program at Greene Acres accommodates all ages, skill levels, and disciplines, 2 years to 100 years, beginner to advanced, western to english. Horses are taken very well care of by Amanda, the Greene team girls and boarders who are all friendly and don't ever hesitate to help.

The summer camps give kids the opportunity to learn the same things they would learn by taking a lesson but get the chance to do it all week as well as participate in fun activities such as crafts, games, or just exploring the farm. If you or your child are like me and end up sticking around you will find that Greene Acres is more than just a farm and that the people there are more than just friends. I have learned so much by riding at

Greene Acres from horse sense to common sense and life skills. But, the greatest takeaway is that the people at Greene Acres are more than just friends or a team to me, they are family. So, if you are thinking about trying horseback riding for you or your child or looking for a new barn, Greene Acres is the place to go.

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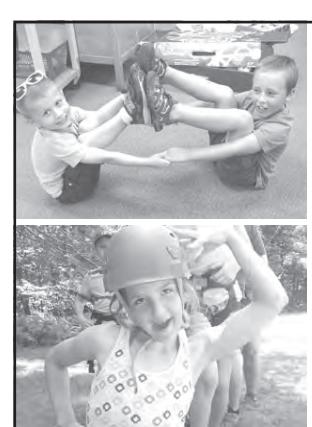


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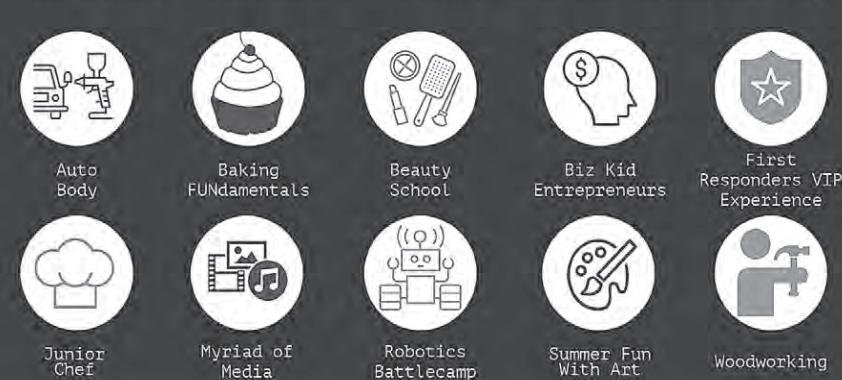
p: 413 - 532 - 0374 e: tgymnastic@aol.com

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WEEK #2 JULY 12-16
WEEK #3 JULY 19-23
WEEK #4 JULY 26-30

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1ST

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*MORNING DROP OFF AT 8:00 A.M.
*PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.
*AFTERNOON PICK UP 2:45-3:15 P.M.
*SNACKS AND LUNCHES PROVIDED

REGULAR PRICE: \$250/WEEK (5 DAY) | \$200/WEEK (4 DAY) | \$800 (ALL FOUR WEEKS) | \$675 (FOR THREE WEEKS)
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• Extra Storage

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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PAGE 14

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Public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Eric Curboy and Kathryn Angers** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Savers Co-Operative Bank dated April 21, 2006, recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15839, Page 315; said mortgage was then assigned to Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency by virtue of an assignment dated **December 7, 2010**, and recorded in Book 18625, Page 144; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 01:00 PM on **April 22, 2021**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of **196 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA 01010**. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

The land with the buildings thereon located in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows: A certain parcel of land on the westerly side of the road leading from Brimfield to Wales known as Route 19 bounded to wit: BEGINNING on the westerly side of said highway at a point 30 feet southerly of

the southerly line of a culvert crossing said highway, which point is the north-easterly corner of the land to be conveyed and running; THENCE westerly along land formerly of Arthur E. Vaughn 285 feet, more or less, to the center of a big rock; THENCE turning and running southerly in a line just previously described for a distance of 125 feet; THENCE turning and running easterly along land now or formerly of said Vaughn 285 feet, more or less, to the westerly line of said highway #19; THENCE north-easterly along the westerly line of said highway #19, 125 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to takings for highway purposes made by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in connection with the reconstruction of Route #19. BEING the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Lasalle Bank, NA dated April 18, 2006 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds immediately prior to this in Book 15839, Page 315.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservations, restrictions, and takings of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the

property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale. Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. The Mortgagor reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale-date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The premises is to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, leases, tenancies, and rights of possession, building and zoning laws, encumbrances, condominium liens, if any and all other claim in the nature of liens, if any there be.

In the event that the suc-

cessful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagor reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder, providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagor's attorneys, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein. If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagor reserves the right to purchase the within described property at the amount bid by the second highest bidder. The foreclosure deed and the consideration paid by the successful bidder shall be held in escrow by DG&L (hereinafter called the "Escrow Agent") until the deed shall be released from escrow to the successful bidder at the same time as the consideration is released to the Mortgagor, whereupon all obligations of the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to have been properly fulfilled and the Escrow Agent shall be discharged. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: March 4, 2021
Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency

By its Attorney
DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C.

Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 921-2670
www.dgandl.com
56384 (CURBOY)
03/25, 04/01, 04/08/2021

CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an un supervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon.
Barbara M Hyland, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: April 05, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

04/08/2021

Meeting ID: 934 6151
7169
Password: 878803
Monson Conservation
Commission
04/08/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM

Notice of Simplified License Application pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91 21-WW-PRE-0054-APP NOTIFICATION DATE: April 8, 2021 PERMITTEE: Mark Morisi

PROJECT SITE ADDRESS: 78 First Street, Brimfield, MA

Public notice is hereby given of the application for a Chapter 91 Simplified License by Mark Morisi to construct/maintain a dock in the waters of Little Alum Pond at 78 First Street, Brimfield, Hampden County.

The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways application received by within 30 days of the "Notification Date".

Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include at least five citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located.

Project plans for this Waterways application are on file for public viewing electronically, by request to dep.waterways@mass.gov.

If you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with information on alternative options.

It is recommended that public comments be filed electronically with dep.waterways@mass.gov when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Waterways Regulation Program at: 1 Winter Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

04/08/2021

WALES CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Ch. 131, s.40, the Wales Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. REMOTELY**: go to conservation@townofwales.net. Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for Tim Hannon & Laurie Johnson to construct a new home at 148 Union St.

04/08/2021

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7:20 P.M. REMOTELY**: go to conservation@monson-ma.gov.

04/08/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0599EA
Estate of:
Phyllis Ann Klick
Also known as:
Phyllis A Klick
Date of Death: 08/18/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Charles R Allsop of Springfield, MA and Robert Allsop of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Charles R Allsop of Springfield, MA and Robert Allsop of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/03/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

CLUES ACROSS	36. Options	68. Kenyan river	26. __ or bust
1. One who manufactures	38. Annoy	39. Greek mountain	27. Icelandic poems
6. Science degree	41. Pastas	40. Very pale	29. A citizen of Pakistan
9. Database	44. Fishes	32. Metric linear unit	30. Sea eagle
13. Desert	45. Wrap	33. Potentially a criminal	35. Biblical judge of Israel
14. Inventor Musk	(slang)	34. Knot in a tree	37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
15. Welsh valley	48. Seize	35. Husband-and-wife industrial designers	40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
16. Round Dutch cheese	49. The Constitution State	56. The Ocean State	42. Cool!
17. Saying	51. Upset	57. Point the finger at	43. Large hotel room
18. Comedian and TV host	52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ	58. Midway between northeast and east	47. Type of boat (abbr.)
19. Uppermost portions of the brain	53. 42	59. Portray precisely	49. Picked
21. City in Transylvania	54. Central Chinese province	60. Blister	50. Type of hookah
22. Where astronauts go	55. Predisposition	61. Mental illness	52. Attack
23. Men's hairstyle	60. A notice of someone's death	62. Nose of an animal	53. Directs
24. Indicates position	61. One-time Kentucky Rep.	63. Semicit peoples	55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
25. One point east of due south	62. Swiss river	64. Heroic tale	56. Heroic negotiation
26. Businessmen may have one	63. Dried-up	65. Allan Poe	58. Middle Eastern country
29. Grass part	64. Finger millet	66. German river	59. Protein-rich liquids
31. Running back Gurley	65. Unwavering	67. Brew	61. Malaysian Isthmus
33. Unwavering			65. Spielberg's alien

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF BRIMFIELD OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned
You are hereby notified that on **Thursday the 22nd day of April, 2021, at 10:00 A.M.** at the Tax Collector's Office, 23 Main Street, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Brimfield the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Sharon Ashleigh, Collector of Taxes

Assessed to BATISTA M. CHRISTOPHER And BATISTA TERRI L
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2 Acres located and known as HAYNES HILL ROAD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 17-A-2.1 and being part of the premises recorded in book 18738 on page 552 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$501.78

Assessed to CARON BRIAN R - TRUSTEE
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 37.594 Acres located and known as 160 PALMER ROAD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 11-A-9.5 and being part of the premises recorded in book 15026 on page 136 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$1,927.31

Assessed to CARON BRIAN R
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 12 Acres located and known as REAR PALMER ROAD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 11-A-10 and being part of the premises recorded in book 19639 on page 162 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$440.94

Assessed to CIESLA JOSEPH D And CIESLA STANLEY F
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 17.15 Acres located and known as REAR APPLE ROAD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-E-2 and being part of the premises recorded in book 16318 on page 301 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$510.29

Assessed to CIESLA JOSEPH D And CIESLA STANLEY F
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.54 Acres located and known as GENEVIEVE LANE shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-E-2.11 and being part of the premises recorded in book 16318 on page 301 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$522.73

Assessed to CIESLA JOSEPH D And CIESLA STANLEY F
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.95 Acres located and known as GENEVIEVE LANE shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-E-2.9 and being part of the premises recorded in book 16318 on page 301 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$494.28

Assessed to CIESLA JOSEPH D And CIESLA STANLEY F
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.81 Acres located and known as GENEVIEVE LANE shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-E-2.20 and being part of the premises recorded in book 16318 on page 301 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$494.28

Assessed to CIESLA JOSEPH D And CIESLA STANLEY F
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.58 Acres located and known as GENEVIEVE LANE shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-E-2.12 and being part of the premises recorded in book 16318 on page 301 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$513.84

Assessed to DZIKI KONSTANTY And FILOMINA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.388 Acres located and known as OAKWOOD + CRESTWOOD RD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 6A-F-13 and being part of the premises recorded in book 4311 on page 2 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$161.80

Assessed To FERRENTINO BRENNA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 4.87 Acres located and known as 188 WALES ROAD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 17-A-10.6 and being part of the premises recorded in book 19492 on page 417 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$5,478.02

Assessed To GEORGE LOUIS M And GEORGE CHRISTY A
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.91 Acres located and known as 1242 DUNHAMTOWN BRIMFIELD RD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-D-18.9 and being part of the premises recorded in book 12679 on page 535 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$3,954.27

Assessed To KEATING EDWARD J
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 51 Acres located and known as REAR MILL LANE ROAD shown on the Town of Brimfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 13-A-23 and being part of the premises recorded in book 21281 on page 499 in the Hampden Registry of Deeds.

Around the Region

Baystate Wing accepting scholarship applications

PALMER — The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has announced applications are now being accepted for their annual scholarship program. The scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors attending local schools, including Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Pathfinder high schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field.

"Despite the current COVID-19 virus restrictions, limiting the group's ability to fundraise, the Auxiliary members are proud to continue their annual tradition of offering seven \$1000 scholarships to area students," said Teresa Grove, Auxiliary vice president.

Scholarship Application Information:

- All applications must be submitted via email by April 27.
- Seven (one year) scholarships will be awarded by the Baystate Wing Auxiliary in May of 2021.
- Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000. Applicants must be planning to pursue a career in health care and must be accepted into an accredited health care program such as nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, radiology, pharmacy, medical technology as well as other health care related fields.
- A student who is graduating from Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Pathfinder high schools in 2021 can apply.
- Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary scholarship applications are available in each school's guidance office and will be accepted by email only.

For more information, student applicants should speak to their guidance counselor.

Everyone invited to Aquacise class

The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow, has brought back Aquacise for residents of Hampden County communities, including Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Aquacise will be offered 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength.

To reserve a spot visit ludlowbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails.

The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

Federal money infused into Mass. programs preventing evictions

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced more than \$400 million in new federal funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act is now available through the Administration's Eviction Diversion Initiative.

Launched last October, EDI consists of a comprehensive set of resources that serves individuals, families and landlords in crisis with financial aid, free and low-cost legal aid and community mediation to keep people in their homes. The state has distributed approximately \$80 million in rental assistance to more than 18,000 households since the beginning of the State of Emergency (data available on the public dashboard at mass.gov).

According to the administration, helped mitigate an anticipated evictions crisis across the Commonwealth.

Information tracked by the Massachusetts Trial Court shows a total of 626 executions issued in residential eviction cases from Oct. 18, 2020, through March 28, 2021, for cases filed after the state moratorium. This represents a reduction of nearly 85% – 3,807 eviction executions – compared to the year prior.

The infusion of more than \$400 million in federal resources, which is expected to be supplemented by hundreds of millions in additional dollars through the American Rescue Plan Act, allows the Commonwealth to provide longer-term relief to low-income renters and landlords in crisis, while implementing system efficiencies and processes for the future, the administration says. The additional funding, and the flexibility created by federal regulations, enables the Commonwealth to expand aid to more households, provide deeper and longer-term assistance to households, and help households with utility payments, according to Baker's office.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has been investing heavily in and working closely with regional administering

agencies and the Rental Assistance Processing Center to incorporate the new Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding into existing delivery service models for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition and Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance programs.

"The ongoing public health crisis and the economic consequences created by COVID-19 have made the importance of stable, affordable housing a clear and vital component of our strategy to keep households safe and healthy," Baker said.

"This major infusion of resources enables us to extend and strengthen our Eviction Diversion Initiative, which supports both tenants and landlords in crisis to keep more families safely housed. With more than \$400 million available, we are pleased this funding will enable us to respond to the immense need for support right now, and make long-term investments in our homelessness prevention programs."

Funding Highlights include:

Income eligibility: Households making up to 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) will be eligible for funding (RAFT has an eligibility threshold of 50% of AMI).

Longer-term assistance: Households may be eligible for up to 12 months of rental arrears (plus an extra three months of stipends for future rent if funding allows and need is demonstrated), as well as overdue utilities arrears up to \$1,500. All rent and utility arrears must have been accrued after 3/13/20. Currently, RAFT and ERMA can provide up to \$10,000 per household for rental arrears or stipends.

It also prioritizes funds for those most at risk, including those making less than 50% AMI and those unemployed for 90 days or more. In addition, DHCD, in partnership with MassHousing and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, will launch a new program to allow qualified owners of income-restricted units, as well as Local Housing Authorities,

to apply for help directly on behalf of all of their income-eligible residents with past-due rent. The Subsidized Housing Emergency Rental Assistance program will expedite relief for possibly tens of thousands of eligible tenants in need, while also allowing administering agencies to concentrate on applications from non-subsidized tenants in need of assistance.

Federal resources will also be made available to families who are eligible for Emergency Assistance Shelter, by coupling ERAP rental assistance benefits with the existing HomeBASE benefit and housing services. This will help those who owe arrears and are at risk of becoming unsheltered, and also those who are exiting EA shelter and transitioning into permanent housing.

The Administration is also pursuing two pilot initiatives: the first will allow municipalities to provide targeted outreach and hands-on ERAP application support to communities with demonstrated need and hard-to-reach populations, and the second provides targeted outreach strategies to small landlords about the availability of ERAP and other state financial assistance programs.

"Thanks to the hard work of DHCD and so many partners, we've transformed how we support families facing an eviction or a housing crisis during the pandemic," Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy said.

"We've increased our dollar commitment, and introduced new, comprehensive services like free and low-cost legal aid and community mediation between tenants and landlords to help keep people housed. As we enter a critical stage of our economic recovery, it is absolutely vital to ensure families have access to safe, stable housing."

Through another partnership, legal assistance is available for those who can't afford an attorney. For more information, go to mass.gov or contact your state representative.

Three Rivers resident joins Skoler, Abbott & Presser

SPRINGFIELD — Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C., a leading labor and employment law firm serving employers in the greater Springfield area, recently welcomed Attorney Jeremy Forgue and two paralegals, Jonathan Applefield, and Tracy Belanger, to its team.

Attorney John Gannon, a partner at Skoler Abbott, said, "It's an exciting time of growth for us and we are fortunate to find such exceptional talent to add to our team. Our recent hires bring a depth of experience to our firm and our clients. Employment and labor laws are ever-changing, and the pace has increased over the past year. Jeremy, Jonathan and Tracy will allow us to keep our clients abreast and compliant with the latest regulations and look after their best interests."

While she lived in California for nearly two decades, Belanger, a paralegal, is a Western Mass. native now living in Three Rivers. She earned her associate degree in administration of justice and a certificate of achievement with an emphasis on the law and public policy at Pasadena City College in California, where she was a member of the honor society, Alpha Gamma Sigma.

She then pursued her B.A. in criminology, law and society from the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine, followed by completion of an ABA accredited paralegal studies program and an externship at the United States Bankruptcy Court.

A Springfield native, Attorney Forgue received his law degree from Western New England University School of Law where he was drawn to business and employment law and was the managing editor of the university's Law Review. Prior to joining Skoler Abbott, he was a law clerk for the Massachusetts Housing Court. He enjoys preparing employers for new and changing laws to prevent compliance issues, such as reviewing existing policies for vulnerabilities and assisting in open forum discussions.

As a paralegal, Applefield, a resident of Northampton, provides broad administrative support to the attorneys and their clients. Before joining the firm, he worked for 16 years as a legal assistant in Manhattan, a job he held while earning an M.A. and M.Phil. in art history at Columbia University. He earned his B.A. from Bowdoin College in Maine.



Tracy Belanger



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